# Swansway Motor Group issues seatbelt safety warning amid summer travel surge



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Automotive experts from Swansway Motor Group have issued an important advisory for parents, emphasising the legal and safety implications of children undoing seatbelts while travelling in vehicles. With the summer holidays in full swing, families travelling across the UK and Europe are urged to heed this critical warning to ensure the safety of their young passengers.

According to Swansway Motor Group, drivers bear full responsibility for ensuring that all passengers, particularly those under the age of 14, are properly secured with seatbelts. Failure to comply with this obligation can result in a significant fine of £500 for each child not properly restrained.

Driving without a seatbelt already invites penalties, with £100 fines imposed on drivers or passengers aged over 14 found unbuckled. Danielle Woods, a spokesperson for Swansway Motor Group, underscored the heavy penalties and potentially life-threatening consequences of these infractions.

"Parents need to grasp the seriousness of this responsibility. It's not just about avoiding fines but about preventing harm to young passengers, who can unknowingly put themselves in danger by undoing their seatbelts out of curiosity or restlessness," she stated.

To mitigate risks, Swansway Motor Group recommends a set of precautionary measures:  
- **Constant Vigilance:** Adults should always be attentive to ensure seatbelts remain fastened, particularly on longer journeys where children might become restless.  
- **Educational Efforts:** Educating children about the importance and necessity of seatbelt use can foster better compliance.  
- **Pre-Departure Checks:** Implementing a non-negotiable rule that everyone must be securely fastened in their seats before the journey begins.  
- **Safe Rectification:** If a child unbuckles their seatbelt during the journey, drivers should find a safe place to pull over immediately and re-secure the seatbelt before continuing.

In addition to these immediate measures, the automotive experts suggest practical strategies for keeping young passengers engaged. Bringing along toys, books, or electronic devices can help distract children from fidgeting with their seatbelts. Furthermore, the presence of an additional adult in the back seat can serve as a direct monitor and prevent any attempts to unbuckle.

Swansway Motor Group also reiterated the requirement for appropriate child car seats until children reach either 12 years old or a height of 135cm. This statutory obligation further enhances the safety of young passengers by ensuring they are suitably protected according to their age and stature.

As families embark on their summer travels, the key message from Swansway Motor Group remains clear: the safety and well-being of passengers take precedence over any journey. Ensuring all seatbelts are securely fastened at all times is not just a legal requirement but a critical step in safeguarding loved ones on the road.